Farm Computer Usage and Ownership

DSL was the most common method of accessing the Internet, with 38 percent of U.S. farms using it, up from 36 percent in 2009. Dialup access dropped from 23 percent in 2009 to 12 percent in 2011. Satellite and wireless were each reported as the primary Internet access methods on 15 and 20 percent of those U.S. farms with Internet access, respectively. Cable was reported as the primary access method on 11 percent of the farms, the same level as 2009.

A total of 62 percent of U.S. farms now have Internet access, compared with 59 percent in 2009. Sixty-five percent of farms have access to a computer in 2011, up 1 percentage point from 2009. The proportion of U.S. farms owning or leasing a computer in 2011, at 63 percent, was up 2 percentage points from 2009. Farms using computers for their farm business remained virtually stable at 37 percent in 2011 compared to 36 percent in 2009.

In 2011, 84 percent of U.S. farms with sales and government payments of $250,000 or more have access to a computer, 83 percent own or lease a computer, 72 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 82 percent have Internet access. For farms with sales and government payments between $100,000 and $249,999, the figures are: 68 percent have access to a computer, 68 percent own or lease a computer, 52 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 67 percent have Internet access. Of the farms with sales and government payments between $10,000 and $99,999, 63 percent reported having computer access, 62 percent own or lease a computer, 41 percent use a computer for their farm business, and 60 percent have Internet access.

For crop farms, 67 percent have computer access and 41 percent use a computer for their farm business in 2011, up 2 and 1 percentage points from 2009, respectively. Internet access for crop farms has increased to 64 percent in 2011, compared with 60 percent in 2009. In 2011, a total of 63 percent of livestock farms have computer access and 61 percent have Internet access.

Farm Computer Usage and Ownership, Arizona/Nevada and United States, 2011

Farms….	AZ/NV percent	US percent 1/
With Computer Access	55	65
With Internet Access	55	62
Have Purchased Agricultural Inputs Over Internet	11	14
Have Conducted Agricultural Marketing Over Internet	4	12
Access USDA/NASS Reports Over Internet	3	7
Access Other USDA Reports and Service Over Internet	11	13
Access Other Federal Government Web Sites Over Internet	9	14
Use Dialup Primarily	22	12
Use DSL Primarily	20	38
Use Cable Primarily	17	11
Use Satellite Primarily	18	15
Use Wireless Primarily	11	20
Use Other/Unknown Primarily	12	4

1/ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii